

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A grass collecting apparatus for directing grass clippings cut by a mower unit to a grass catcher, ~~the~~ The apparatus ~~comprising~~ includes a grass collecting duct for guiding the grass clippings from the mower unit to the grass catcher, the duct having an outlet portion leading to the grass catcher defined by an upper plate, right and left side plates and a bottom plate, a gate-shaped frame disposed in a boundary between the outlet portion of the grass collecting duct and an opening of the grass catcher, and a swing mechanism for swinging the grass catcher between a grass collecting position ~~with the opening of the grass catcher being opposed to the gate-shaped frame~~ and a grass discharging position ~~with the opening of the grass catcher being directed downward~~. The bottom plate ~~provided in the outlet portion~~ is arranged to receive the grass clippings falling off an area around ~~the gate-shaped frame~~ when the grass catcher is in the grass collecting position, and is displaced ~~to a position~~ with a surface thereof being tilted when the grass catcher is swung from the grass collecting position to the grass discharging position. --